

ACADIA OR NOVA SCOTIA

ILE-ROYALE etc.

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ACADIA - OR { Nova Scotia.
New Brunswick.

ILE-ROYALE OR Cape Breton.

PORT-ROYAL OR Annapolis.

ILE ST.-JEAN OR Prince Edward Island.

1598 to 1783.

ACADIA (NOVA SCOTIA).

The first successful attempt at the colonization of Acadia (Nova Scotia) appears to have been made by Pierre du Guast, Sieur De Monts, under Henry the Fourth of France. The country was then frequented by the Mikmak Indians in the pursuit of game and fish. De Monts, who was appointed in 1603 Lieutenant-General of New France by the same sovereign, went in 1604 to Port Rossignol,—now Liverpool, N.S.—then the residence of a French trader named Rossignol, who was trading with the savages (Mikmaks) without license, and whose property he therefore confiscated.

He established numerous settlements and forts on various parts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Having explored the coast of the Bay of Fundy (La Baie du Fond or Baie des Français) he there established a town which was named Port Royal (1605), and was afterwards granted by France to M. de Poutrincourt, who had accompanied Champlain to Acadia and was an associate of De Monts, who had the exclusive privilege of the fur trade for ten years. This first Port Royal was on the north side of the Bay, nearly opposite Goat Island; it was abandoned in 1607, re-occupied in 1610, and destroyed in 1613 by the Virginians under Captain Argall, the Governor of Virginia, in the name of Great Britain.

The second Port Royal was built between 1634 and 1645, by D'Aulnay de Charnisay, on the south side of the bay, about six miles eastward from the first.

In 1621 the whole territory situated at the east of a line drawn from Ste. Croix River northwardly to the St. Lawrence was granted by James I to Sir William Alexander, afterwards Earl of Sterling. This nobleman gave to Acadia the name of Nova Scotia.

The Earl of Sterling, Sir William Alexander, conveyed to Claude de la Tour, a French traitor who had married an English lady and had been created one of the Baronets of Nova Scotia, or of the whole of that Province except Ile-Royale (Cap-Breton).

By the treaty of St. Germain-en-Laye, 29th March, 1632, Charles I agreed to render to France the Province of Acadia, whereupon Louis XIII divided it among a number of his subjects.

On 16th August, 1654, the second Port Royal was taken by Sedgewick.

On 9th August, 1656, the country, having been reconquered under Cromwell, was granted to Sir Thomas Temple, William Crowne and Charles de la Tour.

On 3rd November, 1655, the Westminster Treaty, affecting the forts at Pentagouet, St. John and Port Royal, was passed by France and England.

By the Treaty of Breda (City of Brabant) the country was again ceded to France, 31st July, 1667. The French population at that time was about 1,000; their settlements were chiefly at Port Royal, La Hève, Chedabucto, and on the banks of rivers emptying into the Bay of Fundy. The Mikmak warriors were estimated at 3,000.

In 1686 Great Britain declared war against France. In May, 1690, Sir William Phipps, a native of Massachusetts, attacked Port Royal, which was dilapidated and defended by only 90 troops; he also attacked Chedabucto; both places capitulated.

The French Governor, Villebon, who then arrived from France to take command of Acadia took possession of Port Royal. In 1696 he captured Fort Pemaquid between the Rivers Kennebec and Penobscot.

By the Treaty of Ryswick, 20th September, 1697, Acadia was restored to France.

Louis the XIV having acknowledged the Pretender as King of England, war was again declared, 4th May, 1710; this war lasted eleven years.

In September, 1710, General Nicholson, with 29 transports, four men of war and a tender conveying five regiments, besieged Port Royal, the commandant of which had only 260 effective men in garrison; he capitulated 13th October. Nicholson then named it Annapolis, in honour of Queen Anne, the reigning sovereign. Peace was concluded between England and France, 11th April, 1712.

By the Treaty of Utrecht, 11th April, 1713, Nova Scotia was definitely ceded to Great Britain as far as Ile Royale (Cap-Breton) which France had retained.

M. de Costebelle, under the French, in August, 1713, founded and commenced to fortify Louisbourg, the fortifications and outstanding forts of which were constructed from year to year until their final completion at the end of 25 years, and at a cost of about £1,500,000 sterling.

After the cession of Nova Scotia in 1713, a portion of the Acadians emigrated to Cap-Breton and other localities. Those who remained were settled at various localities along the Atlantic and Bay of Fundy coasts.

In 1744, France, under Louis XV, had declared war against England under George II. Du Quesnel who had succeeded M. Constable as Governor of Ile-Royale (Cap-Breton) fitted out an armament from Louisbourg under Du Vivier, who captured the English garrison at Canseau. Du Quesnel also despatched some irregular forces to Annapolis and other points; he died the same year and was succeeded by Duchambon.

On 7th May, 1745, Louisbourg was besieged by the combined fleets of Commander Warren from the West Indies and General Pepperrell with an army of 4,000 men from Massachusetts; the fortress was surrendered 16th June following.

During the summer of the same year, France despatched a formidable fleet of 70 vessels with 3,150 disciplined troops under the Duke d'Anville to re-establish her supremacy in North America; this fleet was disabled by a series of disasters; after a passage of 90 days, only seven of the vessels arrived in Chebueto harbour. A portion of the fleet returned to France under Admiral Jonquière, was reinforced by 38 sail and was on its way to New France when it was met and defeated by the English Admirals Anson and Warren off Cap Finisterre, 3rd May, 1747; La Jonquière was then taken prisoner.

The Colonies on hearing of the disaster to the fleet, had sent 470 troops to attack the Acadians residing at Grand Pré, but they were badly defeated 11th February, 1747.

By the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, 7th October, 1748, Cape Breton was restored to France.

On 17th August, 1749, La Jonquière was appointed Governor of New France, which he governed until the time of his death, 17th March, 1752.

Towards 1749 upwards of 1,000 Acadian families, comprising about 6,000 persons, occupied the lands for an extent of eight miles on the west side of River Avon, which discharges into the head of the Basin of Mines an arm of the

the Bay of Fundy; Grand Pré, their principal village in that locality is now named Lower Horton, one of the stations on the Windsor and Annapolis Railway; it is still called Grand Pré in that section of the country; it is one mile from the Horton Landing Station, 15 miles from Windsor and 60 miles from Halifax by rail.

FIRST EXPULSION AND TRANSPORTATION OF THE ACADIANS.

During the struggle between France and England for supremacy in North America, and the struggle between England and its Colonists under Washington for their Independence in the portions of the continent now forming part of the United States, 1732 to 1783, the Acadians then residing in Nova Scotia under English rule, were "Neutrals."

In 1755, under the reign of George II, Col. Charles Lawrence, the English Governor of Nova Scotia, and his Council, fearing that the Acadians might help to restore French rule in the Province, preconceived a plan for their compulsory expulsion, although there was little to be apprehended, considering that the entire French population in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick at that time scarcely exceeded 10,000.

The Acadians were ordered to assemble at a stated hour, on the 10th September, 1755, in their respective localities, for the purpose of hearing the King's command, the nature of which was carefully concealed from them; little did they suspect that it was for their banishment and the confiscation of their properties.

The French settlers at Port Royal (Annapolis), and at Beau-Bassin (Cumberland) at the head of the Bay of Fundy, refused to comply with this arbitrary order, believing it was not in their interest; 2,200 of them went to Shediac and Ile St. Jean (Prince Edward Island), then under French rule.

Some were forced by starvation to return to their homesteads and were afterwards transported with their compatriots to various localities in North America; others remained with the Indians, and some reached various localities in the present Province of Quebec, at the Baie des Chaleurs, Magdalen Islands, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, etc.

At Cumberland Basin, the soldiery sent to subdue them, burnt their church, and 253 of their houses, with a great quantity of wheat and flax.

At Grand-Pré, 1,923 persons assembled and were made prisoners by the Bostonians and others from Massachusetts, who were the principal instigators of this unprecedented and tyrannical measure; they burnt 255 of their houses, 276 barns, and 155 of their outhouses; they also destroyed their church, and 11 of their mills; the Government of Nova Scotia also confiscated 20,858 heads of their cattle, horses, sheep, hogs, and all their properties.

At other settlements more than 5,000 Acadians complied with the arbitrary summons to assemble, and were made prisoners, besides which their properties were either destroyed or confiscated.

The total number of Acadians surprised and made prisoners on the 10th September, 1755, amounted to about 7,000.

The heads of families in many cases were separated from each other and from their children. They were embarked and placed in the holds of several old and leaky schooners leased from the agency of Apthorp & Hancock, of Boston, and other vessels, in the bottom of which they were packed promiscuously, without regard to age or sex, and shipped to various parts of the present United States as far as New Orleans.

During the voyage, which lasted from one to two months or more, upwards of 1,000 died, and their corpses were launched into the sea.

The Acadians on board of one of the vessels overpowered the captain, his mate and sailors, and sailed back to St. John's, New Brunswick, where they were hospitably received by M. de Boishébert, the French commandant.

The others were shipped to Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Carolina, Georgia and Louisiana. The colonists in most cases would not even allow them to land, unless some provision was made for their maintenance. Six hundred of them were sent afterwards from New York to St. Domingo at a time when pestilence was depopulating the island. In Pennsylvania, where 415 had been sent, a portion of the citizens of Philadelphia proposed to sell them as slaves. They and their compatriots who had survived the miseries of the sea voyage, were landed at the various localities in a state of utter destitution, amongst a hostile population, and during one of the worst seasons of the year. Many of them afterwards died on account of the hardships they had to endure, and also from starvation.

In South Carolina, where a detachment of 2,000 had been sent, 900 of the survivors were compelled to leave and to embark on board of two old vessels, one of which they had to abandon, and the other to repair during two months. They afterwards reached their compatriots stationed on the river St. John.

Haliburton, speaking of the Acadians, observes that the whole course pursued toward them is a stain on the Provincial Government of Nova Scotia which nothing can justify, and which all men with any sense of humanity must condemn.

In May, 1756, the French Government, moved, no doubt, by the atrocious treatment of the Acadians, declared war against England.

Early in May, 1758, Admiral Boscawen reached Halifax, the rendez-vous of the British forces, from whence he sailed soon after and arrived off the harbour of Louisbourg on the 2nd of June, with a fleet of 151 ships and an army of 14,000 men, commanded by Generals Amherst, Whitmore and Wolfe.

Louisbourg surrendered on the 26th July, 1758.

In the fortress there were 231 pieces of cannon, 18 mortars and a large quantity of stores and ammunition.

The population of the town, exclusive of the troops, was about 5,000 men.

The strength of the garrison before the siege consisted of 2,500 regular troops and 300 militia who were reinforced by 340 Canadians and Indians.

The officers, soldiers and citizens, in all 5,637 men, were sent, the former to England and the latter to France.

The British, fearing that the fortress might again fall into the hands of the French, dismantled and destroyed it.

The French had settlements on various parts of the island, the principal of which were Bras-d'Or, Sydney, St. Peter's and Arichat, where the fisheries gave employment to 27,000 men and 600 vessels, exclusive of boats.

The fall of Louisbourg gave possession of the whole of Cape Breton, with its valuable mines and fisheries to Great Britain.

After the capture of Cape Breton, Lord Rollo was sent to Ile St.-Jean, where 4,100 Acadians surrendered in 1758. The name of the island was changed to that of Prince Edward in 1799.

This island was visited by Cabot in 1497, and was afterwards named Ile St. Jean by Champlain towards 1603; it was first settled by the Acadians after

the expulsion from Acadia (Nova Scotia); it was re-taken by the English in 1745, restored to France by the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, 18th October, 1748, and finally retaken by the English in 1758.

Most of the Acadians were then expelled from their properties and compelled to leave the island. Some of them went to the Magdalen Islands, to the Baie des Chaleurs, Shediac and other localities.

By the Treaty of Paris, 10th February, 1763, the whole of the French possessions in Canada were ceded to England; the Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon were reserved to France.

In 1763 the population of Nova Scotia which included New Brunswick, amounted to 13,000.

In 1772 the population of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton, including 2,100 Acadians and 865 Indians, amounted to 19,985.

In 1784 the population of Nova Scotia proper was about 20,000.

The independence of the United States having been acknowledged by France in 1778 and by Great Britain in 1783, 20,000 refugee Loyalists arrived in Nova Scotia, 5,000 of whom were landed in New Brunswick. The Acadians who were then settled in the valley of the River St. John had to abandon their properties for the benefit of the Loyalists.

SYNOPSIS.

EXPULSIONS OF THE ACADIANS.

The approximate number of Acadians who were expelled from the Maritime Provinces at various times was as follows :—

1. In 1755—7,000 from Nova Scotia, by order of Governor Lawrence, who appointed a day, 10th September, 1775, and an hour for them to assemble in their various localities, in order to communicate to them the King's command, the nature of which was carefully concealed from them.

These unsuspecting colonists who had complied with the summons were seized by officers and soldiers chiefly from Boston and Massachusetts; their churches, dwellings and barns were burnt and their properties confiscated, after which they were transported in several old schooners to various parts of the English Colonies of America. They were packed so close in the holds of leaky vessels and endured so much misery during their two months' voyage in February and March, that 1,000 of them died at sea. Another 1,000 were expelled from South Carolina and re-embarked on board of two old vessels with orders to leave the country; they went to St. John, N.B.; 650 more were expelled from New York and sent to St. Domingo during the time of the pestilence there.

2. In 1758—3,000 were made prisoners of war at Louisbourg and were shipped to England whence they were sent to France, by order of the British Government; many of these went to reside at Belle-Ile-en-mer.

3. In 1758—4,100 Acadian colonists on Ile St.-Jean (now Prince Edward Island) were expelled and their properties confiscated by Lord Rollo when he took possession of the island for Great Britain. Many of them went to settle along the southern coast of New Brunswick and on the Magdalen Islands, which are chiefly inhabited by Acadians at the present time.

4. In 1783—Upwards of 2,000, who were settled in the valley of the River St. John, were expelled, and their properties given to the United Empire Loyalists, 5,000 of whom were landed in New Brunswick.

ACADIAN FAMILIES SETTLED AT BELLE-ÎLE-EN-MER, FRANCE, 1765.

When l'Abbé LeLoutre returned to France, after his long captivity at Jersey Island, he worked for the Acadians with the same ardour and perseverance he had shown during his stay with them in Acadia.

On the 8th of November, 1765, he landed at Belle-Île-en-Mer, where he was followed by seventy-eight families of Acadians, whom the King wished to settle there. Belle-Île-en-Mer is a small island situated some leagues from the west coast of France, opposite Morbihan. It contains four parishes, Le Palais, or north centre; Bangor, or south centre; Sauzon, at the west end; and Locmaria, at the east end.

The Acadians, after their arrival, were divided between these four parishes. Each of the seventy-eight families received a concession of land; afterwards, at the request of l'Abbé LeLoutre, the King ordered 78 houses to be built, one for each family, to each of whom 1 horse, 1 cow, 3 sheep, and a sum of 400 French "livres," were also granted.

In order to remedy a deficiency in the parish registers respecting the origin of the Acadians, the States of Bretagne, who then ruled over Belle-Île, issued an order on the 12th of January, 1767, to take down in writing the sworn declaration of the heads of the Acadian families, in order to trace back their origin and filiation in France. Sixty-four declarations were thus registered, some of which relating to more than one family.

Here follows the declaration of l'Abbé LeLoutre, late Vicar-General of the diocese of Quebec, in Canada, given on the 1st March, 1767 :

"The Acadians, settled on this Island, were transported by the English from Acadia to Boston and other English colonies during the month of October, 1755. They were afterwards sent to Old England and dispersed in various parts of the Kingdom, during 1756. After 1763, when the treaty of peace had been concluded, they were taken to France on the King's vessels, and landed at various seaports; in 1765, during the month of October, they came to settle on this Island by order of Monseigneur le Duc de Choiseul, the Minister of Marine."

See narratives by l'abbé H. R. Casgrain and M. E. Rameau in "Le Canada Français," octobre, 1889, p. 165, et janvier, 1890, p. 26, des Documents sur l'Acadie."

NOTE.—For further details respecting Acadia, etc., see Part VI.